THE TRIBUNE'S NEW HOME.

THE NEW TRIBUNE.

OPENING OF THE GREAT BUILDING.

THE FINEST NEWSPAPER OFFICES IN AMERICA.

THE LATEST IMPROVEMENTS IN ARCHITECTURE AND PRINTING—FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT

To-day, on the 34th anniversary of its establishment, THE TRIBUNE is issued from its new building. It was on Saturday, the 10th of April, 1841, that the first number of "A New Morning Journal of Politics, Literature, and General Intelligence" was published by Horace Greeley, at No. 30 Ann street. The building in which the birth of the paper took place is still standing, between Nassau and William streets, and forms part of the paint warehouse of F. W. Devoe & Co., being now numbered 44. Winchester, the publisher of *The New World*, occupied one or two floors of it, and the quarters reserved for THE TRIBUNE were modest and narrow, though decent enough in that day of small things. Two flat presses, each capable of taking 3,000 impressions an hour, sufficed for a beginning. Newspapers then used to go to press at midnight, and keep the machinery running till 6 o'clock in the morning, and if they were then prepared to issue an edition of 10,000 copies, they were well satisfied with the night's work.

The first task which Mr. Greeley set himself was to print mail advices from Washington only one day old—that was long before the invention of the telegraph—and when he accomplished it he boasted joyfully over his competitors. He has left, in his "Recollections of a Busy Life," a curious record of the anxieties of the eventful night when he watched the launching of his enterprise, and the misgivings with which he put it upon the streets on the severest morning of the year. "The sleety atmosphere, the leaden sky, the unseasonable wintriness, the general gloom of that stormy day, which witnessed the grand though mournful pageant whereby our city commemorated the blighting of a nation's hopes in the most untimely death of President Harrison, were not inaptly miniatured in my own prospects and fortunes." The entire capital embarked in the venture was only a thousand dollars—of borrowed money—but to Horace Greeley at that time a thousand dollars was a great sum. Five hundred subscribers had been obtained in advance. Of the first edition 5,000 copies were printed, "and I nearly succeeded," says Mr. Greeley, "in giving away all of them that would not sell." It was a little paper of four pages, containing altogether no more matter than is put upon *a single leaf* of THE TRIBUNE of to-day, and it was sold for one cent. The entire receipts of the first week were only $92, and the current expenses were $625.

In the early days almost all the work of writing, editing, compiling—and very often of collecting news—was done by Mr. Greeley and his assistant, Henry J. Raymond, the late George M. Snow taking charge of the financial column. Of others who shared in the preparation of the first number of THE TRIBUNE, two survive and render it valuable and faithful service to-day—Thomas N. Rooker, the foreman of the composing room, and Patrick O'Rourke, the head engineer. We shall not repeat the oft-told story of the early life of THE TRIBUNE. The astonishing industry and courageous enthusiasm of its proprietor carried it triumphantly through the difficulties which beset the first years of all new journals, and though it was often poor and the editor and his assistants were compelled to perform an enormous amount of work, its success was never doubtful after the first two or three days. In six weeks its circulation rose from 500 to 11,000; and then it was announced, with an air of complacency at which the modern printer will be tempted to smile, that the editor found it necessary to buy a new press capable of printing 3,500 copies an hour. Well might Mr. Greeley say that THE TRIBUNE of 1841 was only the germ of what he meant to make it; for the paper this morning is eight times as large as its first number, and the newest of its four presses is capable of printing 16,000 copies an hour on both sides of the sheet simultaneously—that is to say, of taking 32,000 impressions.

Though it generally fought with the minority and was often at war with a prejudiced and vicious public opinion, the upward course of the paper was never seriously impeded, and the first determined attempt to break it down was one of the first incidents that gave an impetus to its circulation. When it was only a few days old, the owners of its chief rival, *The Sun*, entered into a conspiracy with their own newsboys to flog any urchin found selling THE TRIBUNE in the streets—a desperate and bloody resolve, in the fulfillment of which the editorial fists of the late Moses Beach himself are said to have played a vigorous part. Preposterous as such a conflict seems at this distance of time, it was an event of public interest in 1841, and it brought THE TRIBUNE a great many new subscribers. Perhaps at some future day a generation still wiser than ours will look back with equal amusement upon the greater dangers of 1842, when the office was put in a state of defense to repel a threatened attack from Sixth Ward ruffians, and of 1863 when it was captured and set on fire by a furious mob during the anti-draft riots.

THE TRIBUNE moved from Ann street to its present corner in 1842, taking possession of a building erected by Mr. Thompson Price, the father-in-law of Mr. Greeley's business partner, Thomas McElrath. On the 5th of February, 1845, that building was totally destroyed by fire, and THE TRIBUNE returned for a few months to its old quarters in Ann street, appearing promptly on the morning after the catastrophe. The five-story brick building which rose from the ruins in the course of the Spring was a marvel of convenience for its day, and when a fire-proof structure 50 feet square was added to it on the Spruce street side, in 1857, people came to look at it with almost as much curiosity as they now manifest in the imposing pile of which we take possession to-day. For two-thirds of a century The Tribune Building was one of the most notable landmarks of New-York; and it was not without a pang of regret that the conductors and old friends of the paper at last watched its disappearance. The noblest and most valuable part of Horace Greeley's work was done under its roof, and it figured prominently in the history of the great social and political revolution which culminated in the war of emancipation. For the space of a generation it was a center of moral and intellectual influences which have left a permanent impress upon the American people. Its stairs were worn with the feet of men whom the future historian of this country will place among the venerable figures in the most critical period of the development of the American Republic; and it was inseparably associated with the progress of American scholarship and culture and enterprise. Long before his death, Horace Greeley saw the realization of his chief ambition assured, and knew that the unpretending brick building on Printing House Square was certain to be a conspicuous figure in the records of his native land.

During the last years of his life the paper rapidly outgrew these modest quarters, and preparations were made for putting up a new structure. Two adjoining houses were purchased on Nassau street, and a part of the earnings of the concern was put aside every year as a contribution toward a building fund. In the Spring of 1873 a further purchase was made of property on Frankfort street, so as to give THE TRIBUNE a frontage on three streets. Then the entire business of the paper was moved into the fire-proof building on Spruce street, and the demolition of the old Tribune Building, which had so long been a familiar sight from the City Hall Park, began on the 17th of May, 1873. The work of tearing down was finished on the 31st of May, and the construction of the present imposing edifice—less than half of what The Tribune Building is ultimately to be—has gone on without interruption ever since. Its progress has been delayed by the failure of the granite contractor to comply with the stipulations of his agreement, and the extraordinary solidity and thoroughness of the workmanship have consumed much more time than was originally supposed to be necessary. As a compensation, however, for the delay arising from this latter cause, we have the satisfaction of knowing that safety and comfort have never been sacrificed in the slightest particular for the sake of haste. During a part of the time as many as 300 men have been employed, and at the busiest seasons the work has gone on night and day. We are thus enabled on this anniversary to take possession of the most thoroughly equipped newspaper office in the world; and with new type, new and vastly improved presses, and every mechanical facility which the ingenuity of American inventors can devise, we purpose making THE TRIBUNE better than it has ever been before, and keeping it in the future as it always has been in the past, at the van of our country's progress.

The remaining part of our building will face on Spruce and Frankfort streets, and when the whole is completed we shall have by far the most magnificent and spacious quarters (as we have now the most convenient) ever occupied by a public journal. In the portion now practically finished, the rooms reserved for our own use are not as we intend finally to have them (although even as they are, there is nothing equal to them in the country); but the rest of the edifice is complete in itself, and the additions yet to be made will not disturb it in the slightest degree; it will only be necessary to open a few walled-up doorways in the halls.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING.

THE FOUNDATION.

THE TRIBUNE is fortunate in a site which gives it an excellent natural foundation. The ground has been tested for several feet below the foundation, and found to consist, as far as any trial has been made, of a firm and regular bed of the best red beach sand. After this had been excavated and leveled, a solid bed was laid of concrete, composed of one part Portland cement, three parts sand, four parts clean white gravel, and five parts stone chips, mixed wet, spread over the excavation, and rammed down in layers of 6 inches to an entire thickness of 20 inches. This composition hardens rapidly to the consistency of natural rock, and gives an absolutely even bearing surface for the masonry. Upon the concrete bed, at a depth of 25 feet below the curb, the foundation proper was constructed. It consists first of a continuous row of immense granite slabs, 16 inches thick, and averaging 7 by 9 feet in superficial dimensions, the largest being about 13 feet wide and weighing over 10 tons. Upon this first course under the great piers (5 on the front and 2 on Spruce street), and also along the base of the tower walls, there is a second course of granite slabs, of the same thickness as the first. The foundation walls, 6 feet 8 inches thick, are then continued of fine brick laid in Portland cement, with bond stones of granite 10 inches thick, at intervals of 3 feet, up to the level of the basement floor. The front piers are of Croton pavers' brick, and the interior walls of Haverstraw brick, laid in Rosendale cement-mortar. In fact, no lime whatever is used in any part of the masonry, Portland cement being employed in all the more important parts of the work and Rosendale cement in the rest. The masonry consequently becomes as firm as solid rock, and grows stronger and stronger with age. Not a brick can be dislodged from any part of the walls, from cellar to roof, except by the slow process of cutting it out.

DIMENSIONS.

The edifice constructed upon this superb foundation (we speak always of the part now finished) has a frontage of 92 feet on Printing House Square, and of 52 feet on Spruce street with a depth of 44 feet, and consists of a sub-cellar, basement, nine stories, an attic, and a tower. From the beginning of the foundation to the point of the spire is a distance of 285 feet; from the cellar to the top of the roof is 171 feet. The stone dormer windows at the top of the tower are 200 feet above the sidewalk, and the finial at the top of the spire is 260 feet from the sidewalk. The following table shows the comparative elevation above the sidewalk of the highest buildings on Manhattan Island:

	Feet.
Trinity Church spire	286
Tribune Building	260
Western Union Telegraph	230
Grace Church spire	216
New Post-Office	195
Equitable Insurance Company	165
Mutual Life Insurance Company	157
Grand Central Hotel	142
Grand Hotel	121
Gilsey House	115
To these we add:	
Capitol at Washington	287 1-2
Bunker Hill Monument	221

THE FACADE.

The principal part of the façade, on Nassau and Spruce streets, is constructed of brick, with window trimmings (sills and lintels), string courses, copings, and the main cornice of light-colored granite. The first story and basement, however, are of solid granite blocks, bonding alternately through the whole thickness of the piers, in courses 2 feet 2 inches high. Horizontally the elevation is divided by boldly molded string-courses at various levels. The first is on the level of the first story floor, and the second on the level of the second story, above which the brick work begins. The three following stories are then bound together by a continuous molding, which forms at the same time the window sills of the fifth story. The next three are likewise brought together, being closed up by the seventh story string-course. The main cornice, containing the copper-lined gutter, is at the level of the eighth story window sill. The eighth is a parapet story, showing already the divisions of the large solid dormer windows which give light to the ninth story. Between these windows are small gutters collecting the roof water which from here is conducted by short square leaders to the main gutter. All this work is made of heavy sheet copper fastened with solid bronze ornaments to the stone or brick-work. This arrangement has a very pleasing effect, being carried out with great taste and ingenuity, and forms an agreeable contrast to the ordinary cornices of galvanized iron or other imitations of reality.

Perpendicularly, the front is divided by large piers, which are the principal supports not only of the front walls but also of the iron floor-beams of the interior. In the first story these piers are connected with each other by huge arches of solid granite blocks, those next to the corner and over the main entrance bonding through the whole thickness of the wall, which is here 5 feet 2 inches. The arches carry the smaller piers dividing the windows in the upper stories. The joints of the arch-stones are filled with molten lead, thus preserving an equally distributed pressure upon the whole area of the joint. So far as known they are the only arches in the country thus set. As mentioned above, the front piers from the level of the second story are built in brick work, being faced with the finest dark red Baltimore pressed brick, every other course of which is a header course, so that the facing is bound thoroughly together with the inside masonry. The facing and the inside were built up simultaneously and in level courses—hitherto an unusual mode of construction. Throughout the elevation the depth from the face of the main piers to the sash frames is 2 feet 2 inches, the piers taking half this depth and the real window reveal the other half. This arrangement gives an uncommonly light and cheerful aspect to the front; and another very happy effect has been produced by the introduction of geometrical figures of black brick, making a fine contrast with the deep red. The bricks were laid with all possible care and neatness, the men working from the outside on platforms of a peculiar and ingenious construction, and the working drawings were so minute as to show the position of every brick in a course. The main piers are connected again with each other under the fifth story string-course by large segmental brick arches which bind through the entire thickness of the wall, and are designed to relieve the smaller piers below from any overpowering weight. These arches start from solid granite skewbacks, resting on the carved caps of the large piers. They are of the same span as those of the first story (about 16 feet), and inclose three windows of the upper stories. At this level, which is about the hight of most of the surrounding houses, begins the projection of the lofty tower. It rests upon two large granite corbels, binding deep into the tower side walls, and borne down at the inner ends with the whole weight of the tower. Each of these stones projects 2 feet 6 inches, is 11 feet long, and weighs 10 tons. The division of the windows in the second, third and fourth stories is carried through the entire front, including the dormer windows. In the seventh story the small piers are faced with dark polished granite columns, with boldly carved capitals and bases. The main cornice is formed of a 10-inch granite shelf, projecting 2 feet 4 inches beyond the face of the wall below, and resting on granite corbels, binding through the wall. The facing of the main gutter which rests on this cornice is also of molded granite. The eighth story has between its groups of windows granite mullions, the same as the large dormer windows. The latter are 24 feet high and 16 feet wide.

On the front of the tower, 150 feet above the sidewalk, is a granite balcony from which the National flag will be displayed on special occasions. At the level of the ridge of the roof, the tower, here 17 feet square, is again corbelled out with courses of granite, and above this point is an illuminated clock, with four dials 12 feet in diameter. Besides the ground glass face each dial has an exterior circle of granite on which the hours are cut. Immediately over the clock, on each of the four sides of the tower, appear the words THE TRIBUNE cut in letters 2 feet 6 inches long on granite blocks. The spire consists of an iron frame-work, anchored by heavy iron bands to the granite courses 16 feet below, and covered with slate. The roof of the main building is an enormous iron framework with slate covering and a lining of fire-proof concrete blocks.

The architect has been remarkably successful in giving an appearance of lightness and variety to this immense front of masonry, and he has solved the problem without resorting to the common device of "architectual iron work," or adding a single decoration merely for display. Every ornament has its uses; the position of every stone is dictated by the necessities of construction; and the whole work exhibits the overruling influence of a consistent idea. It presents, therefore, what comparately few American buildings do show, a strict architectural design.

STRENGTH OF THE BUILDING.

The unusual thickness of the walls was a common subject of remark during the progress of the building, few realizing until the structure was far advanced what an immense weight the masonry had to sustain. The tower walls, running back 14 feet from the front of the edifice, are 6 feet thick at the bottom, diminishing by degrees to 3 feet 4 inches at the corbelling below the clock. The front walls of the main building are 5 feet 2 inches thick at the

See Twelfth Page.